

REMARKS

Claim 2 has been deleted. Therefore, on entering this amendment, claims 1, 3-17 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,828,042 to Imanishi.

Claims 6-9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,828,042 to Imanishi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,507,379 to Yokoyama.

Claims 2 and 13-17 have been found allowable but for their dependence on rejected base claims.

For a speedier prosecution of this case, the Applicants respectfully add the limitations of presently allowed claim 2 into claim 1. The Applicants reserve the right to file continuing Applications to pursue the presently rejected claims.

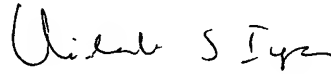
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/721,269

Attorney Docket No.: Q78680

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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